



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

November 18, 2005

News Release

2300 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA WORTH \$3 MILLION SEIZED BY ICE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

GREENVILLE, SC—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that an ICE-led law enforcement team seized approximately 2300 pounds of marijuana here yesterday estimated to be worth \$3 million.

The seizure was the result of a tip provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Laredo, Texas port of entry. The CBP officers discovered the U.S. bound marijuana concealed in a shipment of clay pottery.

ICE special agents alongside officers from the Spartanburg and Greenville County Sheriff's Offices and the South Carolina Transport Police teamed up to seize the marijuana and to arrest the six individuals alleged to have been involved in the illegal venture. The arrests and seizures occurred at a pottery business in Campabello, South Carolina.

"Our law enforcement partners are extremely valuable resources," said Gregory L. Sassi, resident agent-in-charge for ICE in Greenville. "This cooperative effort between ICE and its law enforcement partners is key to the success we've had in stopping criminals who bring drugs into our communities and threaten their safety."

Those arrested have been charged with federal drug trafficking violations. All are in U.S. Marshals custody awaiting the outcome of their criminal case.

All charges against those arrested are merely accusations and all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Assistant United States Attorney Ike Johnson from the District of South Carolina is handling the prosecution of the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.